

REMARKS

Request for Reconsideration

Applicants have carefully considered the matters raised by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action but remain of the opinion that patentable subject matter is present. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Examiner's position based on the above amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

Claims Status

Claim 1 has been canceled herein and Claims 2-17 are presented for further examination. Claims 14-17 are new, however, Claims 14-16 simply recite the limitations of Claim 6 but are dependent upon Claims 3-5, respectively. Thus, Claims 14-16 are simply presenting Claim 6 in a more conventional U.S. format from the way it was presented as initially filed. Likewise, Claim 17 is simply presenting the limitations of Claim 11 but is dependent upon Claim 10. Thus, Claim 17 is presenting the remainder of Claim 11 as originally filed. Thus, no new matter has been added by way of this amendment.

Specification Objections

The Title had been objected to as not being descriptive. A new Title has been presented herein which is deemed to be descriptive of the Invention.

Present Invention

One of the novel aspects of the present Invention is the fact that the attachments used in the load sensor provide for some horizontal movement between the seat and the load sensor. Such horizontal movement or play is not present in the references cited and, thus, it is deemed that the present Invention is patentable over the references cited.

With respect to Claims 2-6 and newly added Claims 14-16, the horizontal movement is provided for by the sleeve which fits over the bolt used to attach the load sensor to the seat. This sleeve is depicted as element 60 in the drawings. As brought out in the Application in the paragraphs starting on page 20, line 5, there is a gap between thread 32 of

bolt 30 and sleeve 60a. The slight movement allows for an accurate vertical measurement of weight.

With respect to Claims 7-11 and 17, these claims recite that the horizontal movement is provided between one of the screw holes in the flange and the bolt which attaches it, see Claim 7, last paragraph and Claim 8, last paragraph which provides for a shoulder bolt that is thicker than the hole. This horizontal gap and the slight movement that it provides is taught in the Specification in the paragraph bridging pages 23 and 24, see specifically, lines 25, page 23-line 2, page 24. Additionally, the slight movement with respect to the shoulder bolt is referred to in the second full paragraph on page 24, see specifically, lines 20-26 on page 24.

Thus, all of the claims presented herein provide for slight horizontal movement between the load sensor and the seat so as to accurately measure the vertical load being applied to the load sensor.

As can be recognized, seat rails are often deflected because of the load and this deflection can cause accuracy problems in the measurement of the vertical force. Because of slight movement which is allowed with the load sensor of the present Invention, the load sensor of the present Invention is not affected by the horizontal deflection and can accurately measure the vertical load. Respectfully, the references cited by the Examiner do not teach this aspect of the present Invention.

Rejection

Claims 1 and 7 had been rejected as being anticipated by Piroozmandi while Claims 1-13 had been rejected as being anticipated by Aoki.

As noted above, Claim 1 has been canceled herein and Claims 2-17 are presented for further examination.

Neither Piroozmandi or Aoki teach or suggest a load bearing sensor which allows for horizontal movement between the bolts that attach the

sensor to the seat. As each of the claims presented herein have such a limitation, it is respectfully submitted that the present Invention is patentable over the references.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the Application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. Should any extensions of time or fees be necessary in order to maintain this Application in pending condition, appropriate requests are hereby made and authorization is given to debit account # 02-2275.

Respectfully submitted,

LUCAS & MERCANTI, LLP

By: Donald C Lucas
Donald C. Lucas, Reg.31,275
(Attorney for Applicant(s))
475 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016
Tel. # (212) 661-8000

DCL/mr

Encl: Return receipt post-card